COMPUTER NETWORK. Applicant asserts that the title as amended is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Regarding the multiple information disclosures submitted prior to examination, many of the submitted references were located during patentability searches not performed by applicant's current counsel. Applicant's current counsel submitted such references under the continuing duty of candor under 37 C.F.R. §§56, 1.97, 1.98. The Applicant is relying on the Examiner's expertise to determine the relevance of the references to the claimed subject matter.

As requested by the Examiner, the applicant has checked the specification for minor errors and has, in response, amended the specification as set forth herein. No new matter is believed to be added by these changes to the specification.

Claim 22 has been amended to conform the claim language with the specification. Such amendments are not required to distinguish the claimed subject matter over any of the cited references, whether considered singularly or in combination.

Claim 42 has been amended to correct a grammatical error and any potential problems under 37 C.F.R. §112, second paragraph. Such amendment is not required to distinguish the claimed subject matter over any of the cited references, whether considered singularly or in combination.

Applicant submits herewith a declaration of prior invention under 37 CFR 1.131 to overcome the rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Civanlar et al. in view of Morgan et al. and/or further in view of December et al. The declaration is submitted with a facsimile signature of the declarant inventor. The original signed declaration will be submitted as soon as it becomes available. In light of the declaration and acconpanying exhibits, all rejections based on the Civanlar et al. reference are deemed moot.

In addition, Applicant has the following remarks. One of the major factors

inhibiting dynamic communications over the Internet, and other computer networks, is the inability to obtain the current dynamically assigned network protocal address of a user process connected to the network. This problem is analogous to trying to call someone whose telephone number changes after each call. Applicant's invention provides techniques for determining the current dynamically assigned network protocal address of a user process connected to the network. The first technique utilizes a dedicated server which acts as a network address/information directory from which calling processes can obtain information. When a first process connects to the network, the process logs-on to the server and provides the server with the network protocal address under which the first process is currently operating. A second process wishing to establish communications with the first process, connects to the server and request the network protocal address under which the first process is currently operating. Upon receipt of the network protocal address of the first process, the second process establishes communications with the first process directly, without any intervenion from the address/ information server.

The Examiner has repeatedly indicated that Civanlar et al. in view of Morgan et al. teach an address server and database utilized to initiate communications between two nodes. Conversly, in the present invention, communications between two nodes, e.g. processes, are initiated by soley by one of the processes. The address server may have optionally supplied address information to one of the processes, but the address server does not establish the point-to-point communication connection between the nodes. Applicant has reviewed Civanlar et al. in view of Morgan et al. and has found no disclosure or suggestion of this first claimed technique whether the references are considered singularly or in combination.

Applicant's invention provides a second techniques for determining the current dynamically assigned network protocal address of a user process connected to the network. In the second technique, a first process wishing to establish communications with a second process, sends, via E-mail, the network protocal address under which

the first process is currently operating to the second process. Upon receipt of the E-mail message, the second process sends to the first process, via E-mail, the network protocal address under which the second process is currently operating. Upon receipt of the network protocal address of the second process, the first process establishes communications with the second process directly, without any intervenion from the address/ information server. This second technique may be used in addition to or in place of the first technique. As with the first technique, communications between two nodes, e.g. processes, are initiated by soley by one of the processes. The address server does not establish the point-to-point communication connection between the nodes. Applicant has reviewed Civanlar et al. in view of Morgan et al. and further in view of December et al. and has found no disclosure or suggestion of this second claimed technique whether the references are considered singularly or in combination.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 32-42 and 43-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Civanlar et al. in view of Morgan et al. and further in view of December et al. Claims 32-42 are directed to a method for establishing a point-to-point communication link from a caller processor to a callee processor over a computer network by associating graphic elements representing communication line and a first callee processor. Claims 43-53 essentially comprise a computer program product claim counterparts to claims 32-42. Applicant has reviewed the cited references in detail and can find no suggestion or disclosure of generating graphic elements representing a communication line or a callee processor or establishment of a point-to-point communication link by associating the graphic element.

Applicant submits herewith new claims 54-68 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. All claims are believed allowable over any of the references cited by the Applicant, whether considered singularly or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general he is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 20-0065.

Respectfully submitted,

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